

Final for Publication – Released 15.09.2025
THE KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL
held on
MONDAY, 25 AUGUST 2025
at 17h30 on MS Teams

In terms of Article 16.1 of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa, notice has been duly given of a Special Meeting of the Federal Council to be held at 17h30 on Monday, 25 August 2025, on MS Teams.

Item	Sub-Item	Sub-Item	MINUTES
1			<p>Opening and Welcome</p> <p>The Chairman opened the Special Meeting of the Federal Council, welcoming all present.</p> <p>Notice of the Meeting</p> <p>The Chairman read the Notice convening the Special Meeting:</p> <p>As requisitioned by the members of the Federal Council, Cllrs MW Vorster, LC Thornhill and N Redtenbacher on Saturday, 28 June 2025, this meeting is held upon Notice having been appropriately given by the KUSA Secretary on Monday, 7 July 2025.</p>
2			<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>To record attendance and any apologies.</p> <p>Attendance of Members of the Federal Council: Cllr JM Hubbard (Chairman of the Federal Council) – JH Cllr M Alberts (Chairman – Exco) – MA Cllr C Chelchinsky (Vice-Chairman – DOGSPC) – CC Cllr RD Jukes (Chairman – FS&NCPC) – RJ Cllr CE Patience (Chairman – NAPC) – CP Cllr N Redtenbacher (Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council & Chairman – DOGSPC) – NR Cllr DC Sparg (Chairman – EC&BPC) – DS Cllr LC Thornhill (Chairman – WCPC) – LT Cllr MW Vorster (Chairman – KZNPC) – MV</p> <p>Apologies: None</p> <p>Attendance of Invited Guests: None</p> <p>Apologies: The KUSA Legal Adviser, Brig Gen (retd.) NJ du Preez (NdP), had rendered his apologies for the Special Meeting, but had advised that he would be available telephonically should any urgent matter arise requiring his counsel.</p> <p>Attendance of Members of the KUSA Staff: KUSA General Manager, Mrs PLE Midgley – PM KUSA Secretary, Mr BG Robinson – GR Club Affairs Administrator, Mrs Patterson-Abrolat – CPA</p> <p>Apologies: The Shows and Judges Administrator, Mrs N Shortland (NS), had tendered her apologies due to the widespread power outages in Port Elizabeth, which had resulted in connectivity problems in her area.</p>

3		<p>Matters to be discussed</p> <p>Procedural matters proposed by the Chairman of the Federal Council, and <i>unanimously sanctioned</i> by the members of the Federal Council at the Fedco 07-2025 FDF discussion held on 10 July 2025, to be placed on the Agenda for this Special Meeting:</p>
	3.1	<p>Proposed restructuring of the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC)</p> <p>The Chairman invited the Chairman of the JEC, MV, to introduce this item and to motivate it to the Federal Council, which he undertook to do:</p> <p>Motivation:</p> <p>It has become apparent over time that the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme (KBJLP) needed to be brought in closer alignment with the system under which Judges gain their qualifications in FCI member countries. It was important for KUSA, as an FCI NCO, to train its Judges to be effective and adequately prepared for the international arena. The introduction of the 'Qualification Path' as set out in Annexure 'A' of Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course – is one way of ensuring that the KBJLP is in step with the requirements of the FCI. This various Paths of Qualification would also deter Learner Judges from “rushing through the Programme”, without taking sufficient time to immerse themselves in the intricacies of the various Breed Standards and acquainting themselves with breed-specific learning materials. Closer FCI alignment would also assist the KUSA Judges' Department in its submission of the applications on behalf of South African Judges to gain recognition of their South African qualifications by the FCI.</p> <p>Since gatherings were prohibited during COVID-19, the focus of Judges' education shifted to online educational webinars. These webinars, although introduced as an emergency measure to continue educating Judges, remain an invaluable tool to give South African Judges the opportunity to be exposed to the knowledge of breed specialists from around the globe. Over time, the webinars have, however, laid bare the critical need for practical, hands-on learning to be incorporated into the KBJLP. The changes to the KBJLP now proposed should ensure that our Learner Judges gain in-depth knowledge and practical experience as they progress to the next level. The introduction of <i>Module 7: Practical Hands-on Judging Assessment</i>, is one example of how the proposed restructuring would provide the Learner Judge with practical assessment skills. Another example is the introduction of the compulsory <i>Critique-writing Workshop</i>. This will be of great benefit to our Learner Judges, assisting them to become proficient in producing coherent and effective critiques under pressure.</p> <p>The reasoning behind requiring Learner Judges to write the exams on the relevant Breed Standards prior to accepting judging appointments is to ensure that they have a thorough knowledge of the breeds before stepping into the ring. Another innovation is the provision of pre-prepared, succinct Hallmark Cards to Learner Judges to keep to hand in the ring, from which to identify breeds' hallmarks and important characteristics swiftly and correctly. These are some examples of how the restructured KBJLP is envisaged to improve and enhance the educational experience for Learner Judges. It should be noted that the proposed changes have been carefully considered with a twofold purpose: one, structuring the KBJLP to better accord with the FCI's ten-group qualification system, thereby easing the progression of South African Learner Judges towards FCI International All-breeds status and, two, augmenting the quality and the value of the education offered to South African Learner Judges.</p> <p>Rollout of the updated KBJLP was envisaged for 1 January 2026, which would require the proposed modifications to be completed by Fedco 12-2025.</p> <p>The Schedules:</p> <p>The Chairman thanked MV for his introduction and the motivation for the proposed amendments to the various Schedules 10. For ease of reference, the Chairman had pasted marked-up copies of the following Schedules into the Agenda for presentation to the Federal Council:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule 10 – Regulations for the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme • Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Regulations for the Group Course • Schedule 10 Appendix 2 – Regulations for the Junior Showmanship Course • Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – Regulations for the Breed Specialisation Course <p>The Chairman informed the meeting that, during the course of the day, NR had reverted with comments and questions on the Schedules and expressed her thanks to NR for having meticulously scrutinised the marked-up Schedules submitted to the Federal Council in advance of the meeting and for her useful comments appended throughout the documents. She assured NR that her input was sincerely appreciated by the JEC and that every oversight identified, typo corrected, or comment made, would be taken into consideration by the JEC when preparing the final marked-up versions of the Schedules.</p> <p>Before the meeting, the Chairman had been able to annotate three of the Schedules destined to be tabled with NR's comments – Schedule 10, Schedule 10 Appendix 2 and Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – but had unfortunately run out of time before she was able to annotate Schedule 10 Appendix 1 as well.</p> <p>The Chairman proceeded to address the individual Schedules and, in doing so, alternated the presentation with MV.</p>
	3.1.1	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 – KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC).</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 – Regulations for the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme:</p> <p>Marked-up and annotated (with NR's comments) Schedule 10 presented by JH, focussing on salient changes and significant departures from the previous Schedule.</p> <p>Comments were reserved till after the full presentation, covering all the Schedules 10, had been completed.</p>
	3.1.2	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course</p> <p>The Chairman called on MV to address the amendments to this Schedule.</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges' Education Council.</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course:</p> <p>Marked-up Schedule 10 Appendix 1 presented by MV, focussing on salient changes and significant departures from the previous Schedule.</p> <p>Comments were reserved till after the full presentation, covering all the Schedules 10, had been completed.</p>
	3.1.3	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 2 – Junior Showmanship Course</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 2 – Junior Showmanship Course:</p>

			<p>Marked-up and annotated (with NR's comments) Schedule 10 presented by MV, focussing on salient changes and significant departures from the previous Schedule.</p> <p>Comments were reserved till after the full presentation, covering all the Schedules 10, had been completed.</p>
		3.1.4	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – Breed Specialisation Course</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – Breed Specialisation Course:</p> <p>Marked-up and annotated (with NR's comments) Schedule 10 presented by MV, focussing on salient changes and significant departures from the previous Schedule.</p> <p>Comments were reserved till after the full presentation, covering all the Schedules 10, had been completed.</p>
		3.1.5	<p>Programme Conversion</p> <p>MV briefly explained how the conversion from the previous KBJLP to the updated Programme was envisaged to be achieved:</p> <p>Judges working through the current KBJLP, would be credited for the level of study already accomplished and would be advised of the remaining criteria that still needed to be met in order to progress further. The KUSA Judges' Department keeps accurate records of all Learner Judges' progress, and these records would be used to track the levels of progression each Learner Judge had achieved. Learner Judges would be individually informed of the outstanding requirements and the recommended process they would need to follow to meet them. It was envisaged by the JEC to host an online webinar for all the Learner Judges currently enrolled in the KBJLP to explain the changes to the Programme and to ensure that the revised requirements are understood by everybody. This initiative would also give the attendees the chance to pose their questions about the revised Programme, hopefully to receive satisfactory answers and clear explanations from the JEC Officers present.</p>
	3.2		<p>Updates to various KUSA Official Forms</p> <p>JH informed Fedco that the JEC Team had compiled a comprehensive spreadsheet on which all JEC Forms and other educational resources have been listed. Those forms and materials destined to be changed as a result of the upgrade of the KBJLP have been identified and are summarised under the Items 3.2.1 – 3.2.5 below.</p>
		3.2.1	<p>Application & Registration Forms & Guides</p> <p>Four forms would require changes if the above proposals were accepted: Breed Judges' Programme Application Form 2022 Junior Showmanship Application Form 2022 (1) REG-21 Course Registration – Foundation Phase REG-23 Course Registration – Advanced Phase (1)</p> <p>Pre-Application Guide – How to Apply to become a Breed Judge (003) This Guide is based on the current requirements of the KBJLP and is, therefore, due for a complete update, should the proposed restructuring of the KBJLP be approved.</p> <p>Learning Programme Orientation (PowerPoint Presentation) This presentation is based on the current requirements of the KBJLP and is, therefore, due for a complete update, should the proposed restructuring of the KBJLP be approved.</p>
		3.2.2	<p>Assessors' & Mentors' forms</p> <p>Eight (8) forms will be affected. Two (2) will be made redundant. GR-21 Mentor's Hallmarks Assignment Assessment – Group Course</p>

			GR-21 Assessor's Judging Skills Assessment GR-21 Mentor's Breed Tests Assessment – Group Course BS-21 Specialist Assessor's Breed Assignment Assessment BS-21 Specialist Assessor's Judging Skills Assessment BS-21 Mentor's Breed Test Assessment – Breed Specialisation Course 02.01.21 AH BS-21 Mentor's Hallmarks Assignment Assessment – Breed Specialisation Course 02.01.21 AH JS-21 Assessor's Judging Skills Assessment (1)
		3.2.3	Level 2 – Group Course – Reports and Proof of Completion Forms Six (6) forms will be affected. GR-21 Learner's Judging Report GR-21 Learner's Learning Encounter Report GR-21 Learner's Proof of Shadow Judging GR-21 Learner's Shadow Judging Report GR-21 Learner's Portfolio Checklist GR-23 Learner's Portfolio Assessment
		3.2.4	Junior Showmanship Course – Reports and Proof of Completion forms Three (3) forms will be affected. One (1) will become redundant. JS-21 Candidate's Seminar Report JS-21 Candidate's Portfolio Checklist JS-21 Candidate's Portfolio Assessment
		3.2.5	Breed Specialisation Course – Reports and Proof of Completion Forms Six (6) forms will be affected BS-21 Learner's Judging Report BS-21 Learner's Learning Encounter Report BS-21 Learner's Proof of Shadow Judging BS-21 Learner's Shadow Judging Report BS-21 Learner's Portfolio Checklist BS-21 Learner's Portfolio Assessment
	3.3		Updates to various Study Guides and Educational Material
		3.3.1	Guides – How to work through Levels 1 & 2 These Guides are based on the current requirements of the KBJLP and is, therefore, due for a complete update, should the proposed restructuring of the KBJLP be approved. Apart from that, it was also felt that the manner in which some of the content is presented in the Guides had become outdated and was in serious need of being contemporised for a new generation of Learners.
		3.3.2	Study Guides
	3.4		New Documents & Forms
		3.4.1	Annexure “A” to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course JH screen-shared the above Appendix “A”, a document based on the <i>FCI Regulations for Show Judges</i> , but customised to fulfil the requirements of the JEC in having to deal with the seven-Group judging system prevalent in South Africa. In its Regulations, the FCI provides for the following Judges’ qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCI Breed Judge (Breed Specialisation) • FCI Group Judge • FCI All-breeds International Judge • FCI All-breeds National Judge (The <i>FCI Regulations for Show Judges</i> do not provide for Junior Showmanship Judges.) The Annexure contextualises the FCI Regulations for the four categories of Judges within the JEC structure, taking into account South Africa’s seven-Group judging system. The document proposes possible “Qualification Pathways”, set out in table-format, for South African Judges to achieve FCI International All-breeds status within the FCI-designated timeframe of twelve (12) years. JH explained that, although the Pathways in the Annexure were the recommended means to an end, candidates were at liberty to vary the sequence of their Groups, as long as they adhered to the FCI’s requirements for Show Judges, i.e. essentially complying with the Regulation that at least two (2) of a Judge’s five (5) Groups must be FCI KEY GROUPS, i.e. Groups 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9.

			<p>Depending on the Group a Learner Judge starts with, the JEC can do its best to persuade the candidate to follow the recommended Pathway for subsequent Groups, but it can obviously not force any candidate to keep on this preferred course. JH mentioned that, when she spoke to the FCI's Executive Director, Mr Yves De Clercq, at the FCI General Assembly in Helsinki, he expressed great interest in the solution the JEC had crafted to navigate between the seven-Group and ten-Group systems and urged her to send him a copy of the JEC's document for scrutiny, once completed.</p> <p>To further guide and aid Learner Judges, Annexure "A" also contains a colour-coded table setting out the FCI's breed "nomenclature" across its ten Groups, with the different classification of KUSA breeds identified by a colour linked to their KUSA Groups.</p>
		3.4.2	Practical Hands-on Judging Assessment.
		3.4.3	<p>FCI Single Group Course</p> <p>JH mentioned that the two forms involved had been sent to her, which she would provide as soon as she had completed the procedures for the KUSA Office.</p>
	3.5		Discussion & Resolution on the various Schedules 10
			<p>The Chairman opened the floor for comments and questions and received the following contributions from NR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the current Schedule 10 Regulation 2.4.5, a Licensed Judge may only award FCI-C.A.C.I.B.@s in a particular Group at local International Shows after two years of having passed the qualifying examination for that Group, the same condition being imposed on every Group. The FCI Regulations, however, currently only enforce the "two-year rule" in respect of a Judge's <i>first</i> Group. Since the JEC had declared its intention to retain the two-year period for every Group completed by Judges working their way through the KBJLP, NR cautioned that the JEC should have a plausible explanation to offer Learner Judges who query this stringent practice. <p>JH reiterated the complexities the JEC had to deal with in trying to meet the FCI's requirements through a misaligned seven-Group system and explained that, for the time being at least, this was deemed the safest way to ensure compliance with the <i>FCI Regulations for Show Judges</i>. However, she and MV took cognisance of NR's cautionary observation and undertook to do their best to motivate this decision to enquiring Learner Judges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NR said that, from her understanding of the FCI Regulations, Learner Judges were expected to commence their judging careers with the "Group they come from". She was of the view that an "Advisory Note" to this effect ought to be inserted into Schedule 10 to guide prospective Learner Judges. <p>MV and JH agreed that such an "Advisory Note" was indeed advisable and committed to its insertion into Schedule 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NR questioned the value of the "Practical Assessment" introduced by the JEC and cited the example of a KUSA Herding Judge who had participated in such a Practical Assessment in order to qualify as a Group 1 Judge under FCI, for which he was expected to add Schipperkes (Utility Group) and German Shepherd Dogs (Working Group) to the breeds he was qualified to judge. On the day of the Practical Assessment, however, no live specimens of these two breeds were presented for assessment and, instead, the Judge was expected to assess breeds he was already qualified to judge at Championship Show level. <p>JH conceded that this was indeed a problematic situation but, given the current non-availability of certain breeds in the country, believed that the additional studies the Judge had undertaken to acquaint himself with the two breeds should be sufficient to justify his</p>

		<p>recognition as a Group 1 FCI Judge to the FCI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turning to Schedule 10 Appendix 3, NR queried why Judges who had attained Level 3 were called 'Learner Judges', whereas those who had attained the same Level in Appendix 1 were referred to as 'Licensed Judges'. In her view, a Judge who is qualified to award CCs cannot be referred to as a 'Learner Judge'. <p>MV and JH conceded that the above was an error and assured NR that it would be rectified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also relating to Appendix 3, NR queried how the amendment under 5.1.4, which is part of Module 1, could contemplate a Paper 2 examination on, <i>inter alia</i>, Breed Assignments, when the latter formed part of a future Module 5. In her view, the Breed Assignments Module either had to be brought forward (in other words, covered earlier) for it to form part of the Paper 2 examination study material, or a bespoke paper needed to be set for Breed Assignments at a later stage. <p>NR's point was taken and JH and MV agreed to attend to this anomaly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Schedule 10 Appendix 2, the pass mark had been left at 75% but, in all the other Appendices, the Paper 2 pass mark had been increased to 80%. Was there a reason for this inconsistency? <p>After discussion, MV and JH agreed that the pass mark in Appendix 2 should accord with the rest and be changed to 80%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having been part of the JEC's previous conversion exercise, which had proved to be an administrative nightmare, NR did not believe that an implementation date of 1 January 2026 was tenable. Although the effective date could be set at 1 January, the implementation date ought to be moved out to 1 July 2026. <p>NR's point was well taken by MV and JH who, ultimately, conceded that implementation by 1 January 2026 was, perhaps, optimistic and, given the amount of work ahead, likely to be extended anyway. There was general agreement that an implementation date of 1 July 2026 was more realistic.</p> <p>MV prompted for further comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LT responded that, although these amendments have been brought to the Federal Council for approval, a number of Federal Councillors were not involved in Breed judging. She was, therefore, of the view that the Federal Council ought to trust the JEC's judgement in its efforts to improve judges' education in the country and, with the proposed amendments taken into account, should support its recommendations. <p>Several views were exchanged on the most sensible way forward, ranging from the amendments to the Schedules being provisionally approved, subject to their being resubmitted by Fedco round robin before sign-off, to deferring approval of the Schedules to Fedco 12-2025. Taken at face-value, the latter presented a convenient solution but, given the imminence of the submission date for items for the Fedco 12-2025 Agenda, this option was ultimately deemed impracticable.</p> <p>GR mooted the possibility of a Special Meeting being called subsequent to Fedco 12-2025 for the specific purpose of approving the JEC Schedules, by which time they should have passed muster with Fedco and the KUSA Office, with all the problems previously identified, as well as those subsequently spotted, ironed out. There seemed general support for this idea and NR suggested that</p>
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		<p>the early evening of the Fedco 12-2025 “overflow” day, Monday, 8 December 2025, might be a suitable time for a Special Meeting. She was prepared to be one of the requisitioners, if required, of a Special Meeting on whatever date suited everyone.</p> <p>On a proposal from MV, seconded by NR, it was agreed, unanimously that a Special Meeting, as unanimously requisitioned by all the Federal Councillors at this Special Meeting, be convened on a date subsequent to Fedco 12-2025 for the purpose of approving the JEC Schedules and any allied documentation, as well as related constitutional amendments, at which prospective Special Meeting the provisional implementation date of the respective Schedules 10 (1 July 2026) could also be confirmed.</p>
	3.6	<p>Other Schedules affected by Proposed Amendments</p>
	3.6.1	<p>Proposed amendment to Schedule 09 Appendix B – Code of Ethics for Judges</p> <p>One minor amendment consequential to the amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 1, has been identified:</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p>Code 1.16: [Note: Following the decision under 3.6.2 below, the Code below will be renumbered as 1.17 with sequential renumbering of the rest of the Codes.]</p> <p>1.17 Judges or Evaluators shall not solicit judging or evaluating assignments, either locally or overseas, which includes, without limitation, pleading, asking, petitioning or canvassing for an assignment, either directly, or through an intermediary, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, except for Licensed Judges or Evaluators, Senior Judges or Evaluators and All-breeds Judges volunteering to assist Club Committees in filling the roles at Non-Championship Shows pursuant to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 Regulations [4.1.3, 5.1.4 and 6.1.4] <u>3.1.3, 4.1.4 & 5.1.4.</u></p> <p>Deferred to the Special Meeting envisaged under Item 3.5 above.</p>
	3.6.2	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 – KUSA Breed Judges’ Learning Programme – Regulation 5</p> <p>and</p> <p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 01 – Disciplinary Rules – Regulation 4.1</p> <p>and</p> <p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 09 Appendix “B” by insertion of a new Code 1.7</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC).</p> <p>Motivation: It has become increasingly evident that some KUSA Licensed Judges were accepting invitations from foreign countries without notifying the KUSA Judges’ Department of such invitations and without seeking clearance from the KUSA Judges’ Department to accept the foreign judging invitations.</p> <p>Not only is KUSA obligated to uphold the highest standards of judging within its jurisdiction, but it is also responsible for insuring that Judges representing KUSA abroad are suitably qualified and meet all other requirements of eligibility. To protect the credibility and integrity of KUSA-licensed Judges officiating abroad, it is necessary to formally introduce a requirement for South African Judges to obtain an up-to-date clearance from the KUSA Judges’ Department before accepting any judging assignments in foreign countries. Apart from safeguarding Judges’ credibility and integrity through full disclosure and transparency, obtaining the requisite clearance is also deemed vitally important for a number of other reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verification of qualification and eligibility: Many foreign Kennel Clubs and FCI National Canine Organisations (NCOs) globally require

		<p>assurance that Judges invited to officiate at their events are properly qualified and authorised to judge the Breed Classes, Breeds and/or Groups, or Dogsport disciplines for which their judging services are required. Clearance issued by the KUSA Office would serve as an official confirmation that the Judge is suitably qualified to fulfil the judging requirements expected by the foreign host.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Confirmation of Good Standing: The proposed clearance will also serve as a verification that the Judge is a current member of KUSA in good standing without any encumbrances, e.g. sanctions, suspensions or impending disciplinary action. Such verification would ensure that judges who are not in good standing with KUSA for whatever reason do not represent KUSA in foreign jurisdictions. 3. Alignment with International Best Practice: Many leading Kennel Clubs and NCOs require judges to obtain formal authorisation before officiating in foreign territories. Implementing this requirement aligns KUSA with international best practice and reinforces KUSA's credibility in the global dog-showing community. 4. Prevention of misrepresentation and unauthorised judging: Without a formal clearance process, there is a risk of misrepresentation, where individuals may lay claim to judging qualifications they don't possess. By introducing a mandatory clearance letter, KUSA would ensure that only qualified, authorised and reputable Judges represent the organisation abroad. 5. Tracking Judges' whereabouts for safety and communication: Having a record of where KUSA-licensed Judges are officiating at any given time is crucial, especially in cases of natural disasters or other emergencies. This information would allow KUSA to reach out to Judges, provide aid if needed and, to the best of its ability, ensure their safety while representing KUSA internationally. <p>Implementation Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Judges invited to officiate outside KUSA's area of jurisdiction must apply to the KUSA Judges' Department for a clearance letter, confirming their qualifications and eligibility, before accepting any international judging appointments; 2. The Judges' Department will verify the Judge's qualifications, membership status and disciplinary record before issuing the clearance letter; 3. The 'Clearance to Judge' letter, sent to the foreign NCO directly, copied to the Judge, will specify the Breed Classes, Breeds and/or Groups, or the Dogsport Disciplines, for which the Judge is authorised to officiate; 4. The 'Clearance to Judge' letter will be valid for the foreign appointment applied for only; a fresh letter must be requested for every foreign judging assignment, irrespective of previous clearances granted; and 5. KUSA will maintain a record of Judges' international assignments for easy accessibility in case of emergencies or other urgent matters. <p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 – KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme – Regulation 5, by insertion of new Regulations 5.1 & 5.2, elimination of former Regulations 5.3, 5.4 & 5.6, and renumbering former Regulation 5.6 as Regulation 5.3, slightly amended:</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p><u>5.1 In every instance a KUSA-licensed Judge is invited to judge in a foreign country, the Judge is obliged to inform the KUSA Judges' Department in writing of the foreign invitation and request a 'Clearance to Judge' letter from the KUSA Judges' Department.</u></p> <p><u>5.2 Once the invited Judge's qualifications and eligibility status have been verified by the KUSA Judges' Department, a 'Clearance to Judge' letter will be sent from the KUSA Office to the foreign NCO directly, copied to the invited Judge.</u> [5-1 All clearances are processed directly between the KUSA Office and the foreign Canine Authorities.]</p>
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[5.3 When an invited Judge has been cleared for the breeds or Groups he/she has been invited to judge, the KUSA Office will forward a 'Letter of Clearance' to the foreign Canine Authority, with a copy to the invited Judge.
 5.4 Any Judge who has been cleared previously to judge a particular breed or Group in a foreign country, and did so, will be automatically cleared again unless his/her membership has lapsed or he/she has been suspended from judging for any reason.
 5.5 All other Judges will only be recommended for foreign judging if they have reached Level 4: Licensed Judge for the relevant breed or Group requested to be judged by that foreign Canine Authority.]
 5.[6]3 It should be noted that foreign judging appointments will not count towards [the Kennel Union] **KUSA** judging qualifications, with the exception of Breed Specialisation concessions as specifically provided for in Schedule 10 Appendix 3 Reg.6.[2]3.4

Proposed amendments to Schedule 01 – Disciplinary Rules – Regulation 4.1, by insertion of a new Regulation 4.1.1.5, with the rest *sequentially renumbered*:

Insertions in **underlined bold type** and deletions in [struck through square brackets]

4. FOUNDATION FOR A COMPLAINT

4.1 A complaint may be made in respect of –

4.1.1.5 failure of a KUSA-licensed Judge or Evaluator to notify the KUSA Judges' Department of every invitation received by them to judge in a foreign country, thereby deterring the KUSA Office from sending a 'Clearance to Judge' letter to the inviting foreign National Canine Organisation (NCO) as required under Schedule 10 Regulation 5.2;

4.1.1.[5]6 the violation of the conditions of a J[j]udge's or E[e]valuator's contract or other agreement with KUSA or any Club or PC;

4.1.1.[6]7 the examinations of the JEC;

Proposed amendments to Schedule 09 Appendix "B" by the insertion of a new Code 1.6, with *sequential renumbering of the subsequent Codes*:

Insertions in **underlined bold type**

1.6 Judges and Evaluators shall not accept an appointment to judge or evaluate in any foreign country unless they have notified the KUSA Judges' Department of the invitation extended to them and have received, from the KUSA Judges' Department, a copy of the 'Clearance to Judge' letter sent to the foreign National Canine Organisation (NCO).

No questions were raised in respect of either of these **three** proposals.

In consequence, on a **proposal from MV, seconded by NR, one**, the above amendments to **Schedule 10 – KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme – Regulation 5** were **approved, unanimously** and, **two**, the above amendments to **Schedule 01 – Disciplinary Rules – Regulation 4** were **approved, unanimously** and, **three**, the above amendment to **Schedule 09 Appendix "B"** was **approved, unanimously**.

[**Note:** Subsequent to the Meeting, the KUSA Office found that the proposed amendments to Schedule 10, tabled and approved at the Meeting, were misaligned with the standard procedure the Office envisaged introducing to ensure compliance with the new Regulations. Moreover, it was noticed that the proposal, as presented at the Meeting, missed an important third component – an amendment to the Schedule 09 Appendix "B", i.e. the Code of Conduct and Practice for Judges Licensed by KUSA.

The requisite amendments were made to the entire proposal by the KUSA Office and, with the

		<p>permission of the Chairman, sanction was sought by means of a Fedco round robin to approve the revised proposal as though it had been presented in its amended form at the Meeting. The round robin met with unanimous approval by Fedco, including the retention of the original proposer and seconder. Like with all Fedco round robins, the Fedco resolution as reflected in the Minute above will be ratified at the next constituted meeting of the Federal Council. The prospective ratification of the resolution does not stay its effective date below.]</p> <p>Effective 01.01.2026.</p>
4		<p>Any other matters requiring urgent attention following Fedco 06-2025, brought forward by the Chairman.</p>
	4.1	<p>Proposed amendment to Schedule 02 Regulation 7</p> <p>Submitted by the Federal Council.</p> <p>Motivation:</p> <p>There is an increasing and urgent demand for KUSA, the only Registry for purebred dogs recognised under National laws, to be accommodating of breeds developed and recognised in certain non-FCI foreign jurisdictions, which had gained popularity in South Africa. The ears of some of these breeds are traditionally cropped in their country of origin, which option had also been exercised by some breeders in South Africa, despite the prohibition of this practice imposed by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), in 2008, in its Code of Practice and Conduct for Veterinarians.</p> <p>Afficionados of such breeds are heavily dependent on imported breeding stock and genetic material to improve their bloodlines and, since the imposition of AIA Permits and the importation of purebred dogs being subject to KUSA's attestation that importers are compliant with the provisions of the Animal Improvement Act (by virtue of their membership of KUSA and, thereby, adherence to the KUSA Constitution), the pressure has been mounting on KUSA to recognise some of these breeds and grant their owners KUSA membership. As a result, KUSA has pursued the recognition of one of these breeds, the American Bully, with the Registrar: Animal Improvement in the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and obtained the DoA's assurance that the breed in question would be additionally gazetted as purebred and recognised by KUSA, for which application has subsequently been made with prior permission from the Federal Council.</p> <p>During the regular progress reports given to the Federal Council over the past few months, the problem of migrating locally bred cropped dogs to the KUSA Appendix Register was discussed, given the restrictions imposed by Schedule 02 Regulation 7. At the time, it was explained to the Federal Council that, currently, cropped dogs represent a substantial part of the American Bully gene pool in South Africa and that making it impossible for these dogs to migrate to the KUSA Appendix Register would defeat the object of accommodating the breed under KUSA. Fedco obviously understood the problem and signalled its amenability to permit the migration of the cropped dogs for a limited period only.</p> <p>As the Federal Council is aware, the American Bullies' genealogy in South Africa is currently mainly contained in two privately administered "registries", American Bully Registration South Africa (ABRSA) and Bully Assure. In order to migrate the dogs and their genealogy to the KUSA Appendix Register, would require a relaxation of the restrictive Schedule 02 Regulation 7 to allow, for a limited period only, the length of such period to be determined by the Federal Council, the accommodation of locally bred cropped dogs on the Appendix Register. It should be clearly understood that cropped dogs would be taken onto the Appendix Register for breeding purposes only and shall be prohibited from being exhibited at KUSA-licensed events.</p> <p>After several months of groundwork and consultation with the stakeholders and the DoA, there is now considerable urgency for KUSA to open the door, albeit narrowly and temporarily, to allow the American Bully into the KUSA fold and, thereby, like with other forward-thinking FCI NCOs, becoming part of the breed's further development in South Africa and its eventual FCI recognition.</p> <p>As additional motivation, GR played a clip from a voice note sent to him by Letisha Kieckhöber, one of the spokespersons for the American Bully fraternity in their dealings with KUSA, in which she</p>

		<p>explains that the American Bully is customarily cropped in its country of origin, the United States of America and that, since the breed had, up to the present, been bred and exhibited in accordance with the Beed Standard of the American Bully Kennel Club (ABKC) in the USA, a number of breeders in South Africa continued to crop the ears of puppies. Excluding these dogs from the breeding stock transferred to KUSA would be counter-productive and seriously impact on the quality of the dogs produced under KUSA.</p> <p>Amendment to Schedule 02 Regulation 7, by a <i>change</i> to the introductory clause of Regulation 7 and a <i>change</i> to Regulation 7.1, followed by a <i>new</i> Regulation 7.2, and the <i>sequential renumbering</i> of the former Regulation 7.2:</p> <p>Insertions in <u>underlined bold type</u> and deletions in [struck through square brackets]</p> <p>7. CROPPED EARS</p> <p><u>Subject to the provisions of Regulation 7.2, a</u>[A]ny dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.</p> <p>7.1 <u>Subject to the provisions of Regulation 7.2, a</u>[A]ny dog born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA that had its ears cropped after birth, or any dog imported into the KUSA area of jurisdiction that had its ears cropped after importation, shall not be eligible for registration or recording by the Kennel Union in any of its registries, records or listings and, should any such dog be found to have been so registered, recorded or listed in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration, recording or listing shall be summarily cancelled and the registration, recording or listing of any progeny be similarly nullified.</p> <p>7.2 <u>On such terms and conditions as stipulated by it, the Federal Council shall be at liberty to grant dispensation, for a discretionary period to be determined by the Federal Council, for dogs of which the ears had been cropped within the KUSA area of jurisdiction to be accepted for registration on KUSA's Appendix Register for breeding purposes only.</u></p> <p>7.3 Dogs of which the ears had been cropped prior to their importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction shall be eligible for registration in the Kennel Union's registries, records or listings, but shall be ineligible to compete in any Show or event licensed by the Kennel Union.</p> <p>The Chairman opened the floor for discussion.</p> <p>CC said that although she understood the rationale behind allowing the cropped-eared dogs to migrate to the KUSA Appendix Register, she appealed that the period of migration should be kept to a strictly controlled minimum. MA suggested that the migration criteria should rather be based on dogs born before a certain date being allowed to migrate. He also questioned the possibility of this relaxation opening the door to other customarily cropped breeds.</p> <p>The above concerns were allayed by GR, seemingly to the satisfaction of all.</p> <p>NR confirmed that, as she understood the proposal, it did not apply to breeds already registered by KUSA. NR enquired whether the American Bully fraternity had indicated a migration period which would be acceptable to them. GR said that, although the period was obviously at the behest of the Federal Council and therefore not at the discretion of the American Bully fraternity, he appealed for the migration period to be reasonable in terms of allowing the message of KUSA's acceptance of the breed to filter through to the American Bully community throughout the country, while also being accommodating of the inevitable sceptics who might consider it prudent to afford themselves a wait-and-watch period.</p>
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	4.2	<p>4.2.1 Ratification of a Fedco round robin concluded on 28 July 2025 – Mandate for KUSA Delegates to Vote at the FCI General Assembly, Helsinki, 4-6 August 2025</p> <p>On a proposal from CP, seconded by LT, the resolution made by Fedco round robin, concluded on 28 July 2025, mandating the KUSA delegates to vote on matters put to the vote at the FCI General Assembly in Helsinki, held during the period 4-6 August 2025, was ratified, unanimously.</p>
		<p>4.2.2 Ratification of a Fedco round robin concluded on 13 August 2025 – Confirmation of Mr Neil Perkins's appointment to the Executive Committee as DOGSPC's Representative.</p> <p>On a proposal NR, seconded by CP, the resolution made by Fedco round robin concluded on 13 August 2025, confirming Mr Neil Perkins's appointment to the Executive Committee as DOGSPC's Representative, was ratified, unanimously.</p>
5		<p>Close of meeting</p> <p>Since there were no further matters to discuss, the Chairman closed the Special Meeting at 20h26.</p>